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optical interfaces for the light propagating within the extractor and forming a closed reflecting surface,

where the electroluminescent layer region of each cell 21 is flat, is optically coupled to a plurality of extractors 31, wherein, for each extractor 31, the surface of said light exit interface 33 is superior to the surface of said light entry interface 32.

Hamano et al. discloses an image display panel comprising a substrate 1 carrying:

- an electroluminescent organic layer 4 partitioned into electroluminescent cells and inserted between two electrode layers (layer of electrodes 2, layer of electrodes 5) of which one is transparent (see, Hamano et al. at page 6, paragraphs 0087-0089). Hamano et al. recites "It is noted that at least either the anode or the cathode may be transparent" and the other opaque (see, Hamano et al. at page 5, paragraph 80) or "one of them is preferably transparent while the other one of them is reflective" (see, Hamano et al. at page 6, paragraph 0089), each cell corresponding to a crossing region of one electrode of each electrode layer (see, Hamano et al. at Figs. 1 and 3a (reproduced herein below) at the crossing region of electrode 2 and electrode 5). Fig. 1 concerns "an organic electroluminescent element", i.e. a cell (see, Hamano et al. at page 3, paragraph 0040 and page 8, paragraph 0111),

- a layer of light extractors operating by reflection ("transparent flattening structure" 8), each extractor being made from transparent material (see, Hamano et al. at page 6, paragraph 0098) and being bounded/limited by a light entry interface (implicit) optically coupled to the electroluminescent layer via the said transparent electrode layer (see, Hamano et al. at page 3, paragraph 0038 where it is stated "light radiated from the luminance layer is extracted from a surface opposed to the substrate"), by a light exit interface (see, Hamano et al. at page 8,

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paragraph 0117 where it is stated "light extraction surface") directed towards the outside of the display panel, and by side walls (implicit) forming a closed surface (implicit). In Hamano et al., according to Figs. 1, 3a and 3b, and to the definition of a cell on figure 3a, the electroluminescent layer region (ref.4 on figure 1) of each cell is flat, is optically coupled to only one extractor (ref.8 on figure 1), and, for each extractor, the surface of the light exit interface is superior to the surface of the light entry interface (ref. 8 on figure 1).

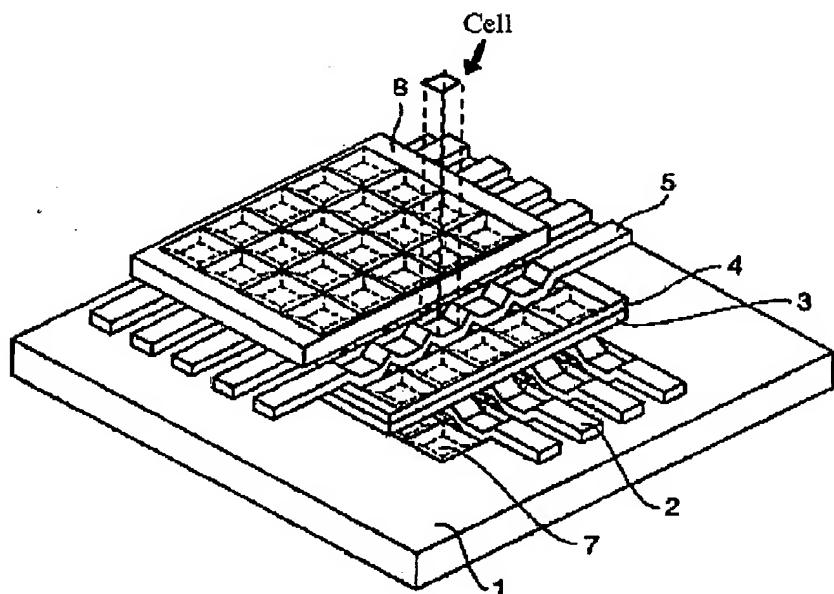


FIG.3a

Hamano et al. does not disclose that:

the electroluminescent layer region of each cell is optically coupled to a **plurality** of extractors due to the different definition of a "cell" described above, and